(e) As per report of the Global Technical Advisor of Airports Authority of India (AAI), it is estimated on preliminary basis that for Delhi and Mumbai airports, the capital investment to the extent of Rs. 8720 crores and Rs. 6400 crores will be required for Delhi and Mumbai airports, respectively. The above estimates do not include cost of likely relocation of some of the assets and removal of encroachments. The first phase of modernisation/ expansion of Delhi and Mumbai airport is likely to be completed by 2010.

Airports for super jumbos

*10. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the AAI has identified any airports in the country to make them designated gateways to handle the newly-unveiled 555-seater super jumbos *i.e.*, A-380s;

(b) if so, the details of such airports and whether the identified airports have the parking bays for the super jumbos; and

(c) what are the other measures AAI are taking to ensure smooth handling of these jumbos?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The international airports at Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai have been identified for accommodating A-380 aircraft. 3 parking bays at Mumbai airport, 2 at Delhi and 1 parking bay at Chennai airport have been identified to handle A-380 type of aircraft. The work of identifying parking bay at Kolkata is at the preliminary stage. The proposed new International Airports at Bangalore and Hyderbad would also have the facilities for handling A-380 aircraft. Studies have already been carried out for adequacy of Runway Length, Taxiway Width, Turning Raddi and apron parking positions at these airports.

Irrigation projects in Assam

*11. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Centre's major irrigation projects yet to be completed in Assam and the amount released so far, scheme-wise;

HPCL had explored the feasibility of setting up a refinery in northern India and in this regard had also explored certain sites in Rajasthan. On the basis of their study, they decided to take up the refinery project at Bathinda (Punjab) as their preferred location. As regards locating a refinery in Rajasthan, the Possibility of locating a well-head refinery in the Barmer area is under the consideration of M/s. Cairn Energy, who are the operator for the oil discovery made there. The refinery project come up in the public sector as a Joint Venture.

International gas pipeline project

115. SHRI G.K. VASAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to meet India's oil needs through international gas pipeline project; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Owing to environmental and techno-economic considerations, gas is now the preferred fuel Substantial gas imports are needed to satisfy our growth requirements, to reduce our dependence on crude oil, as well as to reduce the cost of our energy imports. There is a severe shortage of natural gas in the country from domestic sources, both current and projected, which serioulsy jeopardizes the prospects for our energy security. Therefor, it is proposed to import natural gas in the form of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) as well as through transnational pipelines from gas rich countries in West Asia (including Iran), Central Asia and South East Asia. Government is particularly pursuing gas imports through pipelines from Iran through Pakistan and from Myanmar through Bangladesh. The negotiations with Iran are at an initial stage. For the pipeline from Myanmar through Bangladesh following tripartite Ministerial-level discussion at Yangon on 12-13 January, 2005, a draft MoU was concluded at the technical level in Yangon on 24-25 February, 2005, and is likely to be signed shortly at Dhaka by the Ministers of the three countries concerned.